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JOURNAL

OF THE

AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

The Association is not responsible, as a body, for the facts and opinions advanced in any of the papers or discussions published in its proceedings.

VOL. 5 MARCH, 1918 No. 1

REPORT OF CITY PLANNING COMMITTEE[1]

In its report for this year, your City Planning Committee decided to consider only two of the items suggested for study in the report given at the last Annual Convention. These two suggestions related to the collection of data on the design of water-works structures, with the special point in view of making them sightly and pleasing, and incidental to this point, in so far as it relates to lands around pumping stations, reservoir sites, etc., their use for park purposes for the general public.

In connection with these studies an endeavor was made, as far as possible, to ascertain the extra cost involved in arranging the structures to conform with aesthetic and park requirements.

Following out this idea a postcard was addressed to a large number of the members of the American Water Works Association, asking them to submit photographs and data as to costs along the lines suggested. Many such were received and the Committee desires to express its appreciation of the assistance rendered it in securing photographs and information from members of the Association and will appreciate further contributions along the same lines.

It is believed that the kind of work contemplated for the City Planning Committee of the American Water Works Association is

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[1] Read before the Richmond Committee, May, 1917. The committee submitted a large number of views relating to the subject, of which it is practicable to reproduce but a few.

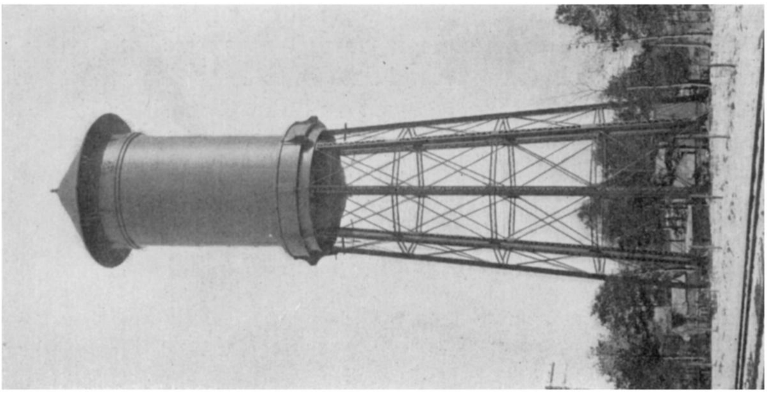

FIG. 1

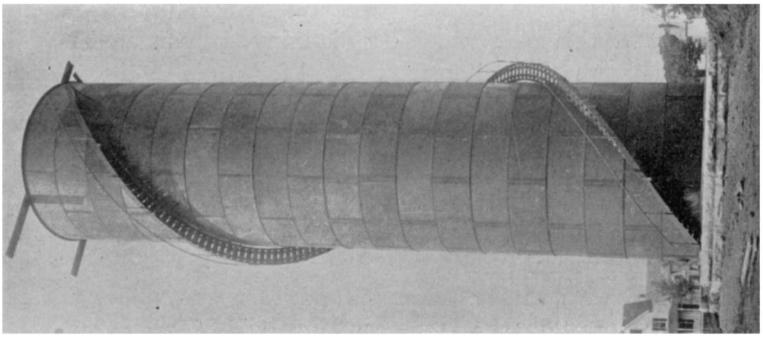

FIG. 2

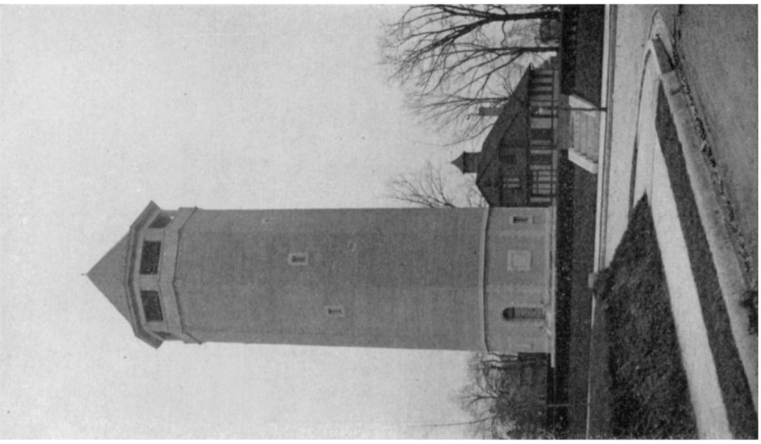

FIG. 3

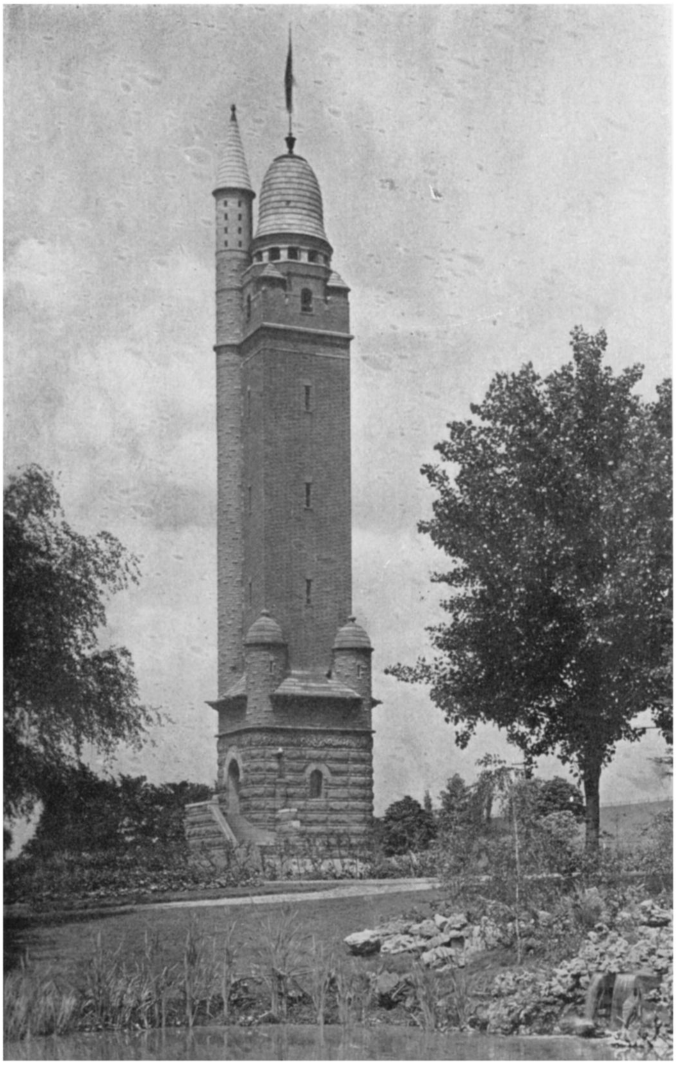

FIG. 4

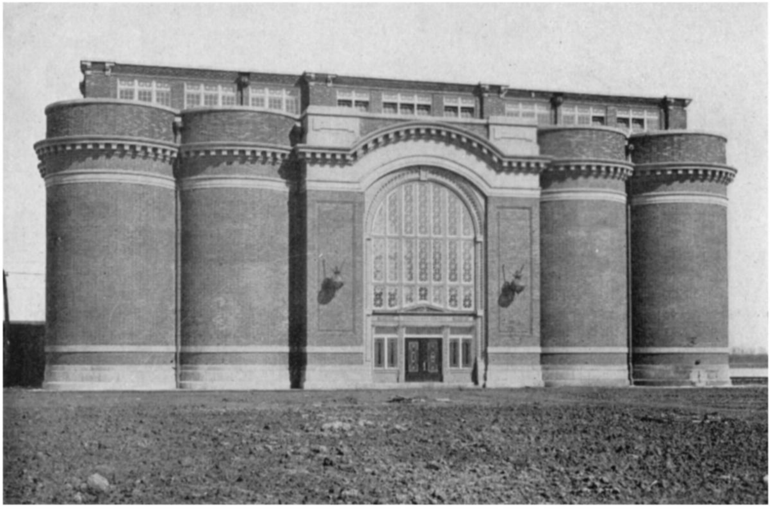

FIG. 5

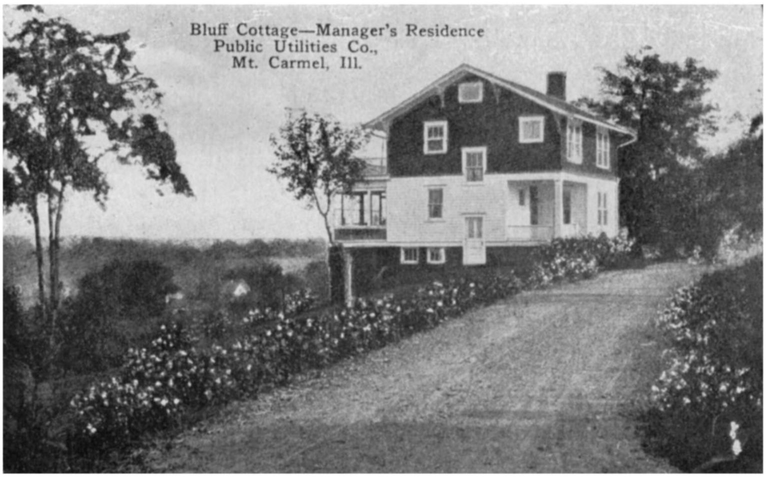
Bluff Cottage—Manager's Residence
Public Utilities Co.,
Mt. Carmel, Ill.

FIG. 6

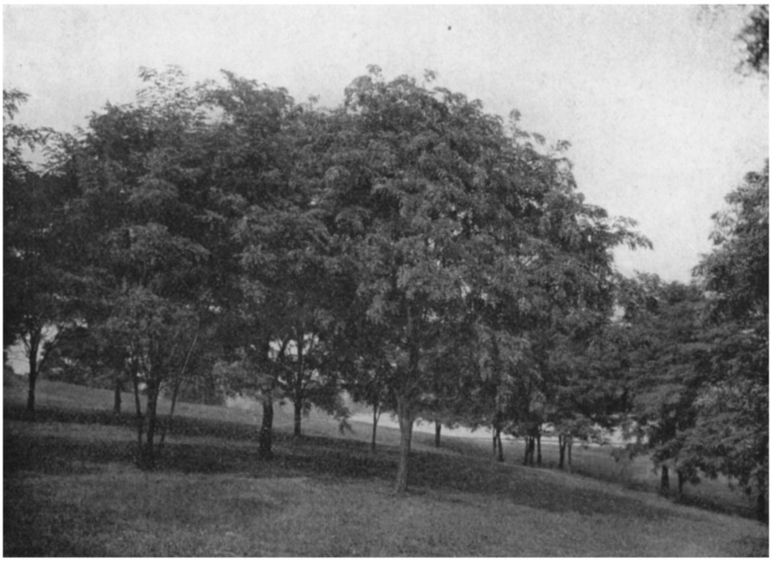

FIG. 7

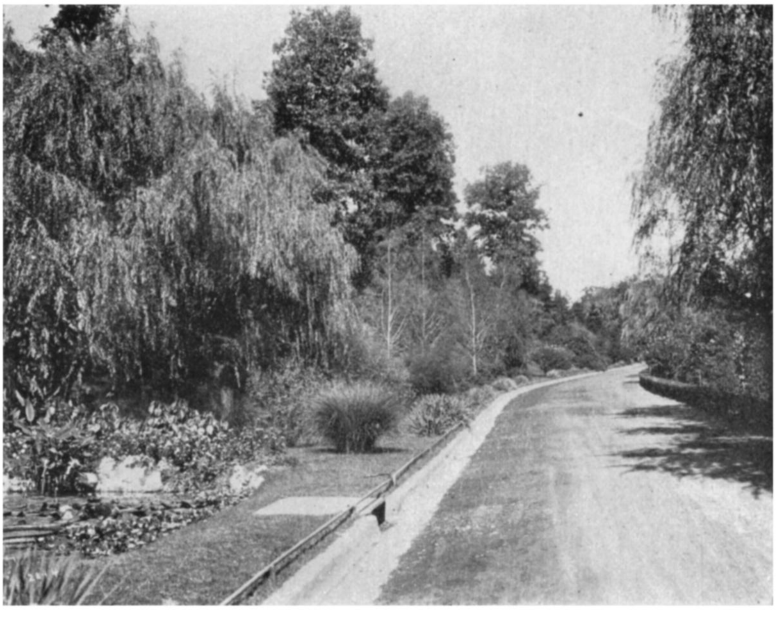

FIG. 8

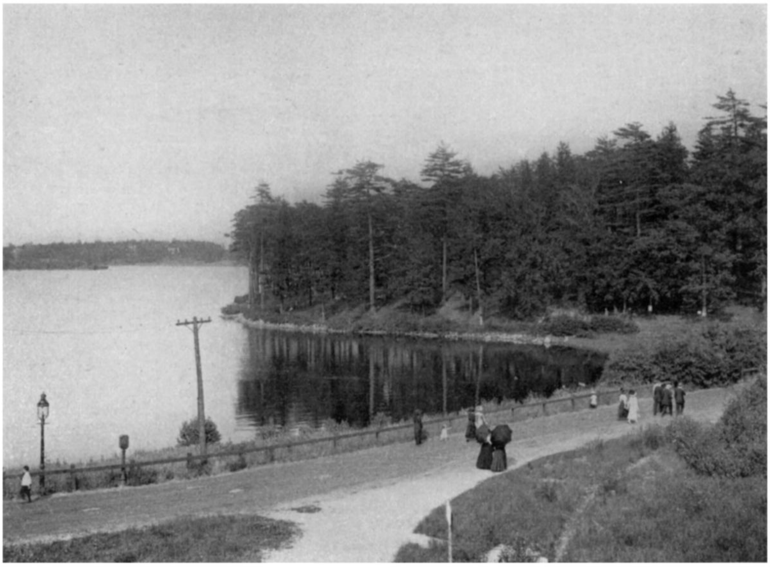

Fig. 9

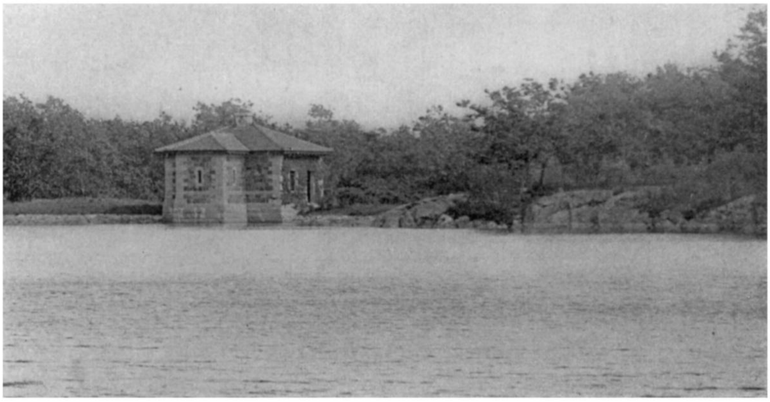

Fig. 10

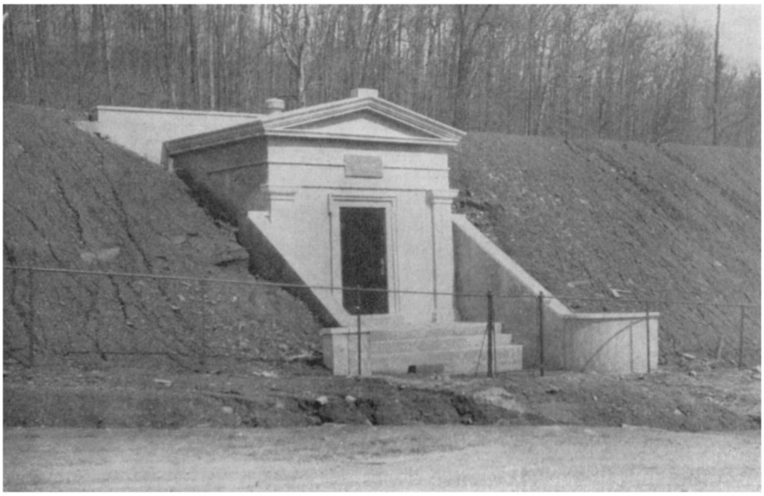

FIG. 11

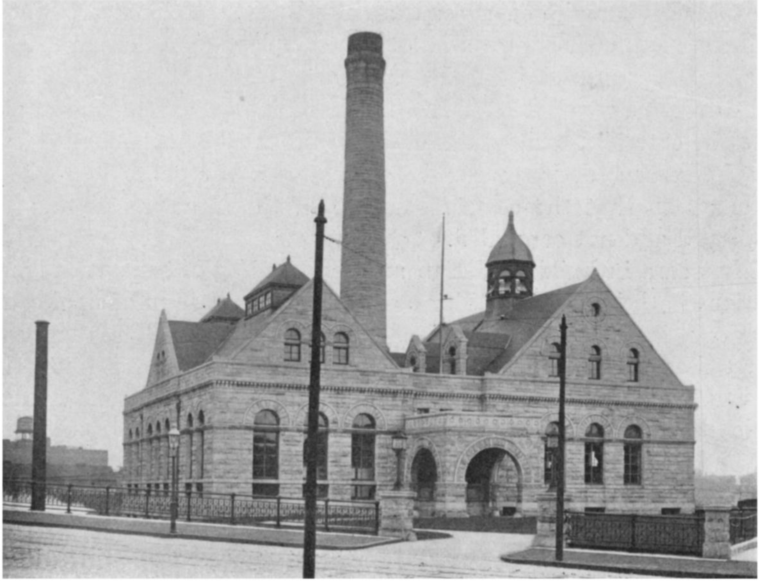

FIG. 12

such that a committee on that subject should be continued by the Association.

A special selection from among the photographs and slides has been made to illustrate special points relating to this subject.

Figure 1 submitted by Nicholas S. Hill, Jr., shows an elevated tank in a residential community. The cost of improving the outline added $1200 to the cost of a plain tank. The proportionate increase is obviously very small and apparently well worth the extra amount involved. Almost any community would be willing to spend such an amount with the corresponding benefit.

Figure 2 submitted by Nicholas S. Hill, Jr., shows a standpipe which would have marred the landscape of a residential section but which was enclosed at an additional cost of about $15,000, as shown in figure 3. Residents can hardly object to such a point of interest in their landscape.

A somewhat more elaborate design for a water tower is shown in figure 4, submitted by James W. Armstrong, at the Crompton Hill Reservoir of the St. Louis Water Works. This tower with its setting is an exceptional example, perhaps a little ornate, but otherwise admirable.

Another example of special architectural treatment of water works structures is shown in figure 5, submitted by James W. Armstrong, showing the Coagulating House, Chain of Rocks, of the St. Louis Water Works. The frank incorporation of the tanks into the exterior architectural design is much to be commended and the interesting design secured demonstrates the general architectural canon that the essential nature of the structure should be displayed and not concealed.

That care in building design and landscaping is believed advantageous both by public utility companies as well as municipal commissions, is shown by the statement of P. Barnhard, Manager of the Public Utilities Company of Mt. Carmel, Ill., concerning the manager's residence, Bluff Cottage, shown in figure 6, concerning which he says, "It pays to dress up and beautify the surroundings. We have had many compliments from both local people and visitors."

Exceptional views of the possibilities which have been worked out along landscape and parking lines are shown in figures 7 and 8, submitted by Mr. Armstrong, of a roadway along a hill side in the Chain of Rocks Park under the jurisdiction of the St. Louis Water

Works, and of the grounds around the settling reservoirs of the Cincinnati Water Works at California, Ohio.

That such parking can be combined with water protection of reservoirs even when they are extensively patronized, is shown in figure 9, submitted by Mr. Armstrong, of Porter Cove, Spot Pond, at Boston, Mass.

The possibilities of successfully fitting architectural structures into the landscape is demonstrated in figure 10, also submitted by Mr. Armstrong, showing how the boulder face walls of the gate house of the Fells Reservoir at Stoneham, of the Boston, Mass., water system fits into the adjacent rocky landscape.

Another example is illustrated in figure 11, submitted by Nicholas S. Hill, Jr. This is "a simple concrete, reservoir gate house with good lines, on a main thoroughfare in a high-class residential section." The architectural treatment added substantially no cost to the structure.

That even such a usually obnoxious structure as a chimney can be made relatively innocuous is shown in figure 12, submitted by Mr. Hill, illustrating "a pumping station in the center of a large city near the entrance of a park."

Many other examples might have been cited, those selected being believed to represent typical examples. Additional illustrations, particularly where the special costs of securing improved results are obtainable, will be greatly appreciated by the committee.